

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2230

To ensure that members of the Armed Forces have complete personal armored protection necessary for their duties, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2006

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To ensure that members of the Armed Forces have complete personal armored protection necessary for their duties, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Servicemember Safety
5 Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPLETE PERSONAL ARMORED PROTECTION FOR**
7 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

8 (a) PROVISION OF COMPLETE PERSONAL ARMORED
9 PROTECTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing as soon as
2 practicable after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the Secretary of each military department shall,
4 except as provided in paragraph (2), ensure that
5 each covered member of the Armed Forces under the
6 jurisdiction of such Secretary is provided interceptor
7 body armor and such other appropriate protective
8 gear as is necessary to provide such member with
9 complete personal armored protection.

10 (2) EXCEPTION.—A member of the Armed
11 Forces described in paragraph (1) may be provided
12 body armor and other protective gear that provides
13 such member with less than complete personal ar-
14 mored protection if a unit commander of such mem-
15 ber (at such level of command as the Secretary of
16 the military department concerned shall specify for
17 purposes of this section) certifies that the provision
18 to such member of body armor and other gear pro-
19 viding complete personal armored protection would
20 impose on such member a greater risk of injury or
21 death than would be borne by such member if pro-
22 vided body armor and other gear under this para-
23 graph.

24 (b) PAYMENT FOR BODY ARMOR AND PROTECTIVE
25 GEAR.—

1 (1) TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENT.—

2 During the period beginning on the date of the en-
3 actment of this Act and ending on the date of the
4 commencement of the provision of body armor and
5 other protective gear under subsection (a) by the
6 Secretary of a military department, such Secretary
7 shall provide to such covered members of the Armed
8 Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary as
9 such Secretary shall designate for purposes of this
10 subsection an amount for the purchase by such
11 members, or for the reimbursement of purchases
12 made by others on behalf of such members, of such
13 interceptor body armor and other appropriate pro-
14 tective gear as is necessary to provide such members
15 with complete personal armored protection.

16 (2) DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS.—In desig-
17 nating members of the Armed Forces under para-
18 graph (1), the Secretary of a military department
19 shall designate members whose military duties or as-
20 signments most urgently require the acquisition by
21 such members of complete personal armored protec-
22 tion.

23 (3) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The total amount
24 of the payment made to a member of the Armed

Forces under paragraph (1) may not exceed the lesser of—

(A) \$1,100; or

(B) the amount incurred by or on behalf of such member to purchase body armor and other gear as described in that paragraph.

(4) AUTHORIZED PRODUCERS AND SUPPLIERS OF ARMOR AND GEAR.—Payment may be made to a member of the Armed Forces under paragraph (1) for the purchase of body armor or other gear only if such body armor or other gear is purchased from such producers and suppliers of military gear as the Secretary of the military department concerned shall designate for purposes of this subsection.

(5) COORDINATION WITH PROVISION OF COMPLETE PERSONAL ARMORED PROTECTION.—A member of the Armed Forces who receives a payment under this subsection is not entitled to the provision of body armor or protective gear under subsection (a) unless the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that the provision of body armor or protective gear to such member under that subsection is necessary in order to meet the requirements of that subsection with respect to such member.

1 (c) COORDINATION AMONG MILITARY DEPART-
2 MENTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the
3 requirements of this section are, to the maximum extent
4 practicable, carried out uniformly across the military de-
5 partments.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “complete personal armored pro-
8 tection”, in the case of a member of the Armed
9 Forces, means such interceptor body armor, other
10 body armor, and other protective gear as is nec-
11 essary to fully shield the torso of the member (in-
12 cluding the shoulders, sides, and lower torso) with
13 body armor.

14 (2) The term “covered member of the Armed
15 Forces” means a member of the Armed Forces who
16 is ordered, assigned, or deployed to a combat zone
17 or on a combat operation.

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